Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 02621 160841Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 H-02 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 OC-06 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00 WRD-01 MCT-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00 PPTE-00 /101 W

-----161509Z 054688 /47

R 160800Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2493 INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS AMCONSUL BARCELONA AMEMBASSY MADRID AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 2621

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, EAIR, IV, IT

SUBJ: HIJACKING OF IBERIA AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) MADRID 1904, (B) ALGIERS 0680, (C) ABIDJAN 2560 (NOTAL), (D) 72 ABIDJAN 3806 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: HIJACKED IBERIA 727 LANDED ABIDJAN 1840 MARCH 14 AND DEPARTED AT MIDNIGHT. HIJACKER IS LUCIANO PORCARI, AN ITALIAN PREVIOUSLY RESIDENT ABIDJAN AND INVOLVED IN 1972 HIJACK ATTEMPT (REF D). IVORIAN AUTHORIITIES COMPLIED WITH PORCARI'S DEMANDS FOR DELIVERY OF HIS FIVE YEAR OLD DAUGHTER AND 35 MILLION CFA (\$140,000). GOIC HANDLING OF INCIDENT WAS CALM AND PROFESSIONAL. NO AMCITS INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

1. GOIC OPERATION WAS DIRECTED BY MINISTERS OF INTERNAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE, AND DIRECTOR OF SURETE. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, TOGETHER WITH PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCES OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PORCARI, SPOKE WITH HIM AND ATTEMPTED NEGOTIATE PASSENGER RELEASE. AMBASSADOR REPORTED ALL PASSENGERS SPANISH NATIONALS EXCEPT ONE GERMAN. PASSENGERS REPORTEDLY DID NOT WISH DISEMBARK ABIDJAN, AND ASKED TO CONTINUE TO ITALY.

2. AIRCRAFT WAS KEPT AWAY FROM PUBLIC PORTION OF AIRPORT,

AND MILITARY DEPLOYED OUT OF SIGHT. CONSULAR OFFICER PRESENT AT AIRPORT REPORTS IVORIANS HANDLED SITUATION COOLLY AND COMPETENTLY, WITH HEALTH SERVICES, FIRE PREVENTION AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AT THE READY. GIVEN SHORT NOTICE OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVAL, IVORIAN SECURITY PERFORMANCE IMPRESSIVE.

STEARNS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ABIDJA02621
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D770090-0316

Format: TEL From: ABIDJAN

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770356/aaaabwuh.tel

Line Count: 69 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 43f780b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 MADRID 1904, 77 ALGIERS 680, 77 ABIDJAN 2560

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 06-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3097469 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: HIJACKING OF IBERIA AIRCRAFT TAGS: PINS, EAIR, IV, IT, (PORCARI, LUCIANO)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/43f780b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009